

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation for its community service and support provided to those patients affected by the disease and to declare July 30, 2013, and for every year thereafter as Gastroschisis Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, gastroschisis is a serious congenital birth defect affecting one infant in every two thousand births; it presents as a protrusion of intestinal lining through the stomach wall; and these cases often require immediate surgery and continuous medical monitoring for a prolonged time period; and

WHEREAS, Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation was established to provide support for families experiencing the disease; based in Raleigh, North Carolina, and affiliated with the University of North Carolina Hospital, the foundation seeks to fund research to find the cause and the eventual cure to this malady; and

WHEREAS, the all-volunteer nonprofit organization was founded by Meghan Hall, mother of Avery John Rauen, a beautiful son born with the affliction who lived to only three months of age; his death on July 30, 2009, marks the establishment of an overt movement to address the needs of patients and to disseminate valuable information about gastroschisis treatment; and

WHEREAS, many young Americans living with gastroschisis often suffer debilitating conditions such as failure to thrive, slow growth, short bowel syndrome, and are subject to multiple surgeries and possible organ transplants; and

WHEREAS, Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation seeks to organize a perpetual nationwide observance of Gastroschisis Awareness Day on July 30, 2013, in an effort to bring added emphasis to the need for research funding and patient support for those affected by the disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation for the community service and support provided to patients and families affected by the disease and further recognizes July 30, 2013, and every year thereafter, as Gastroschisis Awareness Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Emily LaVergne, Louisiana Hub Leader for Avery's Angels.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES